



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



May 8, 2007

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark, Chairman
Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, NH 03301

SUBJECT: HB 61, designating segments of the Ammonoosuc River as protected under the rivers management and protection program

Dear Chairman Clark:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 61, which designates the Ammonoosuc River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program from the Lower Falls at the White Mountain National Forest boundary in Carroll to its confluence with the Connecticut River in Haverhill. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this legislation.

The sponsors of this designation - the Ammonoosuc Corridor Advisory Committee and the Town of Littleton - have worked hard over two years to bring forward a well-researched nomination with strong local support. DES has reviewed the completed nomination in accordance with the requirements of the Rivers Management and Protection Act (RSA 483) to assess the resource values of the Ammonoosuc River. We have found that the river supports a variety of significant resources that qualify it for the Rivers Management and Protection Program. We have further concluded that the Ammonoosuc River would be an exemplary addition to the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The results of our analysis as well as our conclusions are presented in detail in the attached report, The Ammonoosuc River: A Report to the General Court, dated January 2007.

As required by RSA 483:6, III, DES also considered public comment on the nomination by conducting a public hearing and receiving written comment. Written comments included twenty-seven letters of support from local citizens as well as letters of support from every Board of Selectmen from communities within the river corridor. All public comments supported the nomination.

In conclusion, DES has determined that designation of the Ammonoosuc River would be consistent with the purposes of RSA 483, considering the factors in RSA 483:6, IV. We have approved the nomination and forwarded it to the General Court for review and approval in accordance with RSA 483:7 with our recommendation that the river be designated into the Rivers Management and Protection Program. We fully support designation of the Ammonoosuc River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 483:7.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator, or me at 271-2958.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

Cc: Representative Rennie
Senator Gallus
Representative McLeod
Representative Sorg

RMAC Members (via electronic mail)
Ray Lobdell, Ammonoosuc River Corridor Advisory Committee and town of Littleton (via electronic mail)

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